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'Marines Detain A Fourth Guard In Soviet Case

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WASHINGTON, April 8 — A third marine has been detained on suspicion of espionage, the Pentagon said today.

His arrest broadens the scope of potential damage involving guards at American diplomatic missions, since he was assigned to the Leningrad consulate beginning in 1981.

Two other guards have been charged with working with Soviet agents while assigned as guards at the Moscow embassy in 1985 and 1986. A fourth has been accused of improper activities by socializing with Soviet citizens.

In the latest case, Sgt. John J. Weirick, 26 years old, is being held for questioning at Camp Pendleton, Calif., but has not been charged.

Officials said it was now apparent that a Soviet effort to compromise embassy security by making contact with Marine guards began earlier than had been known, and had not been confined to the embassy in Moscow.

Like the other Marine guards implicated in the affair, Sergeant Weirick appears to have socialized with Soviet citizens, including women, according to Robert Sims, the Pentagon spokesman.

The sergeant was detained by the Naval Investigative Service in an inquiry into the activities of marines who guard diplomatic missions around the world, Mr. Sims said.

The Marine Corps filed formal charges today against a fourth marine, Staff Sgt. Robert S. Stufflebeam, who was identified last week as a suspect for having socialized with Soviet women in Moscow. Sergeant Stufflebeam, who was the second ranking marine in the Moscow detachment in 1985, has not been accused of espionage.

The two marines previously charged with espionage, Corp. Arnold Bracy and Sgt. Clayton J. Lonetree, face court martial proceedings. They are accused of allowing Soviet agents to enter the Moscow embassy while they stood guard duty together at night.

Since Sergeant Lonetree's arrest in December set off a wide investigation of security at the embassy, Government officials have said that they believe the present embassy building and a new one under construction may be wiretapped and that secure communications are no longer available.

Secretary of State George P. Shultz said today that he halted secret communications with the Leningrad consulate on Tuesday, when he learned of Sergeant Weirick's arrest.

At a news conference, Mr. Shultz reiterated that the spate of arrests of Marine suspects would not deter him from going to Moscow this weekend for talks on arms control and other matters, because of the importance of the negotiations and because measures had been taken to insure the security of his private communications.

Officials familiar with the Marine investigation said it was producing evidence of a widespread effort by Soviet agencies to penetrate American security through military personnel and civilians assigned to embassies in Soviet-bloc nations and elsewhere.

The investigation has not led to charges against anyone who served on embassy guard duty outside the Soviet Union. Representative Daniel A. Mica, a member of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, has said that security at 10 embassies might have been compromised. A subcommittee on diplomatic operations, headed by Mr. Mica, is investigating embassy security in the wake of the recent disclosures.

Senator Richard G. Lugar, Republican of Indiana, said today that construction plans for new embassies in Soviet-bloc countries should be suspended until the State Department devised security measures "where hostile intelligence services pose a serious threat to our technical and communications security." New embassies are planned in Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, East Germany and Hungary.

The Senator, who sits on the Foreign Relations Committee, said he would offer his proposal as an amendment to legislation providing funds for the State Department's activities.

Embassy construction has received attention because of assertions that Soviet workers inserted listening devices in sections of a new embassy building being built in Moscow.

The Senate Republican leadership introduced several bills today dealing with Soviet espionage, as criticisms of both the Soviet Union and the Administration's handling of embassy security grew in Congress.

One bill would impose restrictions on travel by diplomats from Poland, East Germany, Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Rumania and Cuba, extending the effect of a law limiting Soviet diplomats from traveling more than 25 miles without notifying the State Department. The law makes some areas of the United States off limits entirely.

A second bill would demand restitution from the Soviet Union for any infringements on security at the new embassy building in Moscow. Either the Soviet Union would have to pay for alterations, or it would have to provide a new building site.

The Republican package would also empower Federal courts to impose a death penalty on civilians convicted of espionage in peacetime.

Marines accused of espionage could face the death penalty if convicted. Military officials have not said whether such a penalty will be sought.

Sergeant Weirick, the marine whose arrest was announced today, served in Moscow for a month before being assigned in November 1981 to Leningrad, where he worked for about a year before being sent to Rome. He left the Marine guard battalion in March 1983, for undisclosed reasons.